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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2091

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CDR USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONLULU HI

CINCPACFLT HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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COMUSMACTHAI

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 6 SAIGON 02557

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT,
FEBRUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 27, 1974

PART I -- SUMMARY.

1. ATTACKS-BY-FIRE (ABF) WERE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 62 PERCENT INCREASE IN INCIDENTS IN MR - 1, WHERE THESE AND OTHER FORMS OF TERRORISM WERE CONCENTRATED IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. PLEIKU AND BINH DINH WERE AGAIN THE MOST MILITARILY ACTIVE PROVINCES IN MR - 2. IN TWO INCIDENTS IN THE FORMER, THE NVA SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES WHEN REPULSED IN AN ATTACK ON AN ARVN BATTALION AND ABDUCTED 1,500 VILLAGERS TO SERVE AS FARM LABOR IN BASE AREA 202. THERE WAS A 20 PERCENT DECREASE IN INCIDENTS IN RELATIVELY QUIET MR - 3, WHERE PRINCIPAL ENEMY ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF ABF ON GVN OUTPOSTS. RVNAF OPERATIONS CONTINUED IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE; ENEMY WATER SAPPER ACTIVITY OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK WAS NOT CONTINUED. MR-4 REPORTS A 30 PERCENT INCREASE IN INCIDENTS, WITH ABF CONSITUTING OVER THREE FIFTHS OF THE TOTAL. THE GVN OFFENSIVE AGAINST TRI PHAP IS IN ITS SECOND WEEK, WHILE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SURROUNDING AREAS HAS REMAINED ROUGHLY AT PREVIOUS LEVELS. ENEMY INITIATIVES WERE WIDESPREAD AND INEFFECTIVELY COUNTERED IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA, AND ONCE AGAIN PARTICULARLY NOTABLE THROUGHOUT KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. THE GVN/PRG PERSONNEL RELEASES HAVE ENTERED THEIR THIRD AND FINAL PHASE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TERMINATE ON MARCH 6.

PARTGI -- ICCS

2. ICCS REPRESENTATIVES, MOSTLY FROM HEADQUARTERS STAFFS, HAVE CONTINUED THEIR PARTICIPATION AS OBSERVERS IN GVN-PRG PRISONER EXCHANGES, BUT LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON INITIATION OF INVESTIGATIONS BECAUSE OF DEBATE AND CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE PLENARY AND BETWEEN DELEGATIONS. INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUE TO MAKE "OBSERVATIONS"; IRANIAN OFFICERS HAVE NOW DEPLOYED TO JOIN THEIR INDONESIAN COLLEAGUES AT AN LOC. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. ON ANOTHER TACK, A SPECIAL MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO LOOK AT SIX ICCS SITES WHICH THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS CLAIM ARE UNSAFE BECAUSE OF NEARBY LOCATION OF GVN INSTALLATIONS. THE COMMITTEE IS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS EITHER AS TO MOVING THE SITE, ASKING THE GVN TO MOVE ITS INSTALLATIONS, OR REMAINING IN PLACE.

4. WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL NUR'S DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE FEBRUARY 26, IRANIAN COLONEL ZARIN KHAME HAS BECOME ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS BEEN DESIGNATED, ALSO FROM IRAN, AND WILL ARRIVE IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

PART III -- FPJMT: A QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

5. AGREEMENT ON FEBRUARY 26 TO AN RVN-PROPOSED AGENDA ON ARTICLE 8(B) RESPONSIBILITIES DID NOT, HOWEVER, OVERCOME THE DISPUTE OVER THE DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY DEVOLVING UPON THE SEVERAL PARTIES. THE US/RVN MAINTAIN THAT ALL PARTIES HAVE EQUAL LEGAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE UNDERTAKINGS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 8(B). THE COMMUNISTS ASSERT THAT THE U.S. BEARS "SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE DEAD AND MISSING AS IT INITIATED AND CONDUCTED THE WAR"; WHILE THE DRV DISAVOWS ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RVN DEAD AS "ITS ARMED FORCES WERE NEVER IN SOUTH VIET NAM." THE U.S. DELEGATION AGAIN URGED THE PRG/DRV TO ACCEPT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO TCN DEAD AND MISSING.

PART IV -- TPJMC: PERSONNEL RELEASES.

6. THE GVN/PRG PERSONNEL RELEASES TODAY ENTERED THEIR THIRD PHASE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION ON MARCH 6. THE GVN'S NOW UNQUESTIONABLE DETERMINATION TO SEE THE RELEASES THROUGH TO THEIR CONCLUSION WAS SEVERAL TIMES MANIFEST IN ITS HANDLING OF POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE INCIDENTS DURING THE SECOND PHASE. ON EACH OF THE FIRST FOUR DAYS, THE GVN DELIVERED TO LOC NINH ONE OF ITS "NAME" DETAINEES: TRAN-NGOC-HIEN, FORMER VC OFFICER AND BROTHER OF EX-SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LOWER HOUSE, TRAN-NGOC-CHAU; STUDENT LEADER HUYNH-TAN-MAM; CONVICTED VC COLLABORATOR AND EX-PRESIDENTIAL AIDE, HUYNH-
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2092

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 6 SAIGON 02557

LIMDIS

PART V MR I

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ALTHOUGH THE TWO PROVINCES NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS REMAINED QUIET, THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF MR-1, PRINCIPALLY IN QUANG NGAI. ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS, THERE WERE 78 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, UP 62 PERCENT FROM LAST WEEK'S TOTAL OF 48. THIS IS A DAILY AVERAGE OF 11 AND THE HIGHEST AVERAGE IN FIVE WEEKS. GVN CASUALTIES: 60 KIA, 173 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 125 KIA, 3 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG TRI THE ONLY INCIDENT OF NOTE WAS A TERRORIST GRENADE WHICH WOUNDED 1 AT MAI LINH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. THIS IS

THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN SEVERAL MONTHS. IN THUA THIEN THERE WAS LITTLE EXCHANGE OF FIRE, ALTHOUGH THE ENEMY LAUNCHED A GROUND ATTACK ON A GTF FIRE SUPPORT BASE. IN PHU LOC DISTRICT THE VC INTERRUPTED RAIL TRAFFIC TWICE ON THE HUE-DANANG LINE. ON FEB 22 AT 2340 THE TRACK WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BY A MINE, BUT SERVICE WAS RESTORED BY 1230 THE NEXT DAY. THEN ON FEB 25 AT 086 AN RF COMPANY DISCOVERED 13 MINES, TWO OF WHICH BLEW UP AND DESTROYED 12 RAILS AND 30 RAIL TIES. TRAFFIC WAS RESTORED AT 1400.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM ENEMY MINE INCIDENTS WERE DOWN FROM 36 TO 27. FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY INCREASED TO 17. ENEMY ACTIVITY ITSELF WAS LIGHT.

4. IN NORMALLY QUIET QUANG TIN 6 ATTACKS BY FIRE AND ONE GROUND ATTACK WERE REPORTED. THIS INCREASED ACTIVITY IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE JUMP IN ENEMY ACTIVITY IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE
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WHERE THERE WERE 36 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE REPORTED, 66 PERCENT OF THE I CORPS TOTAL. THE MAJOR VC/NVA ATTACK WAS ON UNITS BASED AT QUANG NGAI CITY AIRPORT ON FEBRUARY 21. A COMBINED MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACK KILLED 9 AND WOUNDED 25 GVN MILITARY AND CIVILIANS (SEE DANANG 0075). THE VC/NVA ALSO MORTARED RTV TU CUNG SITE AT MY KHE IN SON TINH DISTRICT AND SENT IN TWO SQUADS TO THREATEN THE REFUGEES WITH ARSON IF THEY DID NOT MOVE BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL HAMLETS IN THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED ZONE. THE PEOPLE REFUSED AND THE HOUSES WERE BURNED. DUC PHO AND BINH SON DISTRICT TOWNS WERE ALSO MORTARED. GVN PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ATTRIBUTES THIS CURRENT ENEMY HIGH-POINT TO AN ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN GVN MEASURES DESIGNED TO PREVENT TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

5. ICCS:

IN ICCS REGION I THERE WAS NO REPORTED ACTIVITY. IN REGION II IN QUANGNGAI THE INDONISONS AND IRANIANS MADE OBSERVATIONS OF THE SITES OF THE ATTACKS ON THE PROVINCE CAPITAL AIRPORT AND THE SHELLING OF BINH SON DISTRICT CAPITAL.

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

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USLO PEKING

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LIMDIS

PART VI MR II

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 119 INCIDENTS WERE BRIEFED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD COMPARED TO 126 IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE MAJORITY TOOK PLACE IN PLEIKU (41) AND BINH DINH (36) WITH THE REMAINDER IN KONTUM (13), PHU YEN (12), DARLAC (8), BINH THUAN (5), QUANG DUC (2), LAM DONG (1) AND NINH THUAN (1). RVNAF CASUALTIES AT 24 KIA, 102 WIA AND 4 MIA WERE ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO LAST WEEKS 26/87 AND 22 BUT ENEMY LOSSES WERE DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM 213 KIA TO 192 KIA. AIR STRIKES TOTALLED 200 WITH PLEIKU RECEIVING 100, DARLAC 42, KONTUM 32, QUANG DUC 24 AND BINH DINH 2.

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: THE LARGEST SINGLE ACTION IN MR II TOOK PLACE IN PLEIKU LAST WEEK WHEN THE 2ND CO., 3RD BN OF THE 42ND REGT WAS ATTACKED ON FEBRUARY 20 ABOUT 13 KM SOUTHEAST OF PLEI DJERENG. 47 ENEMY WERE REPORTED KIA AND 11 CKC'S, 3 AK-47'S AND 2 BAR'S CAPTURED WHILE ARVN LOST ONLY 1 KIA. OTHER ACTION IN PLEIKU CONTINUED TO CENTER IN THE AREA AROUND THANH AND AND PLEI BLANG 3 TO THE SOUTHWEST OF PLEIKU CITY. IN THE FIRST ABDUCTION OF A VILLAGE IN PLEIKU PROVINCE SINCE JANUARY 26, 1973, 1500 PEOPLE FROM TEN HAMLETS BELONGING TO PLEI DE GROI (BR 044353) VILLAGE WERE ABDUCTED ON FEBRUARY 18 AND TAKEN TO THE EAST BANK OF THE DAK IA YUN RIVER. THIS AREA HAS LONG BEEN A PRODUCTION CENTER SERVING BASE AREA 202 AND, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PEOPLE WILL BE USED AS FARM PRODUCTION WORKERS.

IN KONTUM MOST OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE CITY. ARVN AND RF FORCES REDEPLOYED IN THIS AREA IN RESPONSE TO HEAVY ACTION IN THE KON BRAIH AREA DURING THE PRECEDING WEEK BUT ENEMY CONTACTS WERE MUCH LIGHTER DURING THE PAST WEEK. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE 19TH REGT OF THE 968TH NVA DIVISION, ORIGINALLY REPORTED IN BEN HET, IS NOW IN TAN CANH. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE PROVINCE CHIEFS OF KONTUM AND PHU YEN SWAPPED POSITIONS.

3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: IN BINH DINH, MILITARY ACTIVITY CENTERED
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LARGELY IN TAM QUAN BUT WAS LIGHTER THAN NORMAL FOR THE AREA AS A WHOLE. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT OCCURRED IN QUI NHON HARBOR ON FEBRUARY 23RD WHEN A FLOATING MINE HIT THE TANKER DAI HAI (UNDER CONTRACT TO SHELL) CAUSING THE SHIP TO BE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. THE SHIP'S TANKS WERE EMPTY AT THE TIME. IN AN INCIDENT ON THE 19TH, THREE VC SAPPERS LAUNCHED A GRENADE ATTACK AGAINST A PF POST IN THE AN DONG RESETTLEMENT CAMP AT BONG SON VILLAGE. TWO PF WERE KILLED AND 10 CIVILIANS AND 5 PF WERE WOUNDED. ON THE 20TH ABOUT 4000 PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE VC IN BONG SON. ACTIVITY IN PHU YEN WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT,

POSSIBLY DUE TO THE PRISONER RELEASE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ACTIVITY WILL PICK UP MOMENTUM AS THE RICE HARVESTING SEASON PROGRESSES. ON FEB 19 TERRORISTS PLANTED A BOMB IN THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT HOA TRI VILLAGE, TUY HOA DISTRICT. THE BOMB SERIOUSLY WOUNDED THE VILLAGE CHIEF AND THREE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF.

4. QUANG DUC/DARLAC: THE HEADQUARTERS AND TWO BATTALIONS OF THE ARVN 45TH REGT HAVE MOVED FROM DUC LAP IN QUANG DUC TO BAN DON IN DARLAC. THE REMAINING BATTALION OF THE 45TH HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE QUANG DUC PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. PHAM VAN NGHIN WHO ALSO HAS FULL OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE 53RD REGT, THE 21ST RANGER GROUP AND HIS THREE INDIGENOUS REF BATTALIONS. INCONCLUSIVE PROBING OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE 21ST RANGER GROUP THIS WEEK NORTH OF KIEN DUC BUT THE 2ND CO, 2ND BN. OF THE 53RD REGT, ON FEB 24, HAD A SHARP CLASH WITH THE ENEMY SOUTHWEST OF DAK SONG AND CLAIM 10 COMMUNISTS KIA PLUS 4 AK-47'S SEIZED. IN DARLAC, ARVN OPERATIONS TO THE WEST AND NORTHWEST OF BAN DON CONTINUE. NO MAJOR CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE BUT A NEW ENEMY UNIT, EQUIVALENT TO THE NEWLY ARRIVED 2 BATTALIONS OF THE 45TH REGT, IS SAID TO BE IN THE AREA. THE COMMANDER OF THE 23RD DIVISION, COL LE TRUNG TUONG (HIS PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED) IS MOVING 105 AND 155MM ARTILLERY INTO THE BAN DON AREA. ON FEBRUARY 24 ARVN FORCES EXPLODED A LARGE ENEMY AMMUNITION DUMP NORTHWEST OF BAN DON.

5. OTHER AREAS: NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION WAS RECORDED IN PHU BON, TUYEN DUC, LAM DONG OR NINH THUAN. IN BINH THUAN, SPORADIC ENEMY CONTACTS WERE MADE IN THE THIEN GIAO - HAM THUAN
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AREA. NORMALLY QUIET KHANH HOA AGAIN RECEIVED VC/NVA ATTENTION ON THE MORNING OF FEB 26 WHEN HIGHWAY 21, RUNNING BETWEEN NINH HOA AND BAN ME THUOT, WAS INTERDICTED AT APPROXIMATELY BP 710890. DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT APPARENTLY THE ACTION WAS SHARP AND KILLS WERE MADE BY BOTH SIDES. THE ROAD WAS OPEN TO TRAFFIC BY EARLY AFTERNOON. THE LAM DONG PROVINCE CHIEF, LT. COL. LUU THANH HUU HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO CAM RANH. HIS REPLACEMENT IN LAM DONG IS LT. COL. HOANG CONG THU, FORMERLY IN THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AT II CORPS HEADQUARTERS.

6. ICCS: THREE PRISONER RELEASES BY THE VC ON FEBRUARY 22 PROVIDED INCREASED ACTIVITY FOR THE ICCS AND THE JMC. IN ALL 86 PERSONS WERE RETURNED TO THE VN; 70 MILITARY PERSONNEL INCLUDING 19 LITTER CASES IN DUC NGHIEP, PLEIKU PROVINCE AND 8 CIVILIANS EACH AT VO DINH, KONTUM PROVINCE AND AT DIEN THO IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE. TWO OF THE ICCS HELICOPTERS PARTICIPATING IN THE RELEASE AT VO DINH REPORTED RECEIVING

GROUND FIRE BUT WERE NOT HIT. ADDITIONAL PRISONER RELEASES
WERE SCHEDULED IN KONTUM AND PHU YEN FOR FEBRUARY 26.

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 6 SAIGON 02557

LIMDIS

PART VII MR III

1. THE WEEK UNDER REVIEW WAS RELATIVELY QUIET IN MR 3. PRINCIPAL ENEMY ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF ATTACKS BY FIRE ON GVN OUTPOSTS. FRIENDLY FORCES WERE INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS IN PHUOC TUY AGAINST THE COMMUNIST D445TH BATTALION. MR 3 HEADQUARTERS PRESENTLY ANTICIPATES MORE HARASSMENT AND TERRORIST ACTIVITY, BUT NO LARGE SCALE OFFENSIVE, IN THE COMING SPRING.

2. A GENERAL DECREASE IN THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS NOTED DURING THE WEEK WITH 155 INCIDENTS REPORTED, 20 PERCENT LESS THAN THE PREVIOUS PERIOD. OF THE TOTAL, HOWEVER, APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD (56) WERE INCIDENTS RELATED TO MINE DETONATIONS. GROUND ATTACKS, AT 38, WERE DOWN FROM 46 AND ATTACKS BY FIRE, AT 34, WERE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN PREVIOUS WEEK'S TOTAL OF 62. GVN ARTILLERY FIRINGS DECREASED SLIGHTLY FROM 10,986 ROUNDS TO 9,161 FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 23 (GVN REPORTING PERIOD). VNAF AIR SORTIES FLOWN DURING THE SAME PERIOD NUMBERED 229, DOWN 12 FROM THE WEEK BEFORE. GVN CASUALTIES, AT 230 (28 KIA, 196 WIA, 6 MIA) WERE ALMOST THE SAME AS LAST WEEK'S TOTAL OF 229, DUE TO A LARGER NUMBER OF WOUNDED. ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE DOWN FROM 74 KIA AND 3 CIA TO 56 KI, AND 4 CIA.

3. HAU NGHIA, WITH 39 INCIDENTS, LED ALL OTHER PROVINCES WHILE LONG AN AND BINH DUONG FOLLOWED WITH 25 EACH. ACTION FELL OFF SHARPLY IN BINH LONG, FROM 48 TO 15 INCIDENTS, AS A RESULT OF LESS COMMUNIST PRESSURE AROUND AN LOC. SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED FROM TAY NINH (8/21), PHUOC TUY (16/24) AND BIEN HOA (5/15). THERE WERE ONLY TWO RALLIERS COMPARED WITH 9 LAST WEEK, BUT ONE OF THEM DIRECTED GVN TROOPS TO THE BODIES OF FOUR COMMUNIST SOLDIERS HE HAD KILLED (IN BINH DUONG) BEFORE RALLYING. SIX ESCAPEES ALSO RETURNED FROM NVA/VC POW CAMPS. THE STEADY STREAM OF ESCAPED ARVN POW'S MAY INDICATE EITHER LAXITY IN NVA/VC PRISON SECURITY OR AN INTENTIONAL RELEASE FOR INFILTRATION PURPOSES.

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4. COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE AGAIN DRASTICALLY REDUCED TO 388 ROUNDS FROM 923 LAST WEEK AND 1525 TWO WEEKS AGO. ON FEB. 19 AN ENEMY PLATOON LAUNCHED A GROUND ATTACK, TOGETHER WITH 30 ROUNDS OF MORTAR, AT AN RF OUTPOST 7 KILOMETERS EAST OF LONG THANH DISTRICT TOWN, BIEN HOA PROVINCE, RESULTING IN 3 GVN WIA; ON FEB. 22 ANOTHER 50 ROUNDS OF MORTAR WERE FIRED AT RF TROOPS 6 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN; AND ON FEB. 20 AN RF PATROL KILLED 4NVA/VC IN A PLATOON SIZE CONTACT 10 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN. THESE INCIDENTS LEND CREDENCE TO RECENT REPORTS OF AN NVA/VC BUILD-UP IN LONG THANH DISTRICT. NVA/VC MORTAR ROUNDS HIT TWO SUB-SECTOR HEADQUARTERS IN PHUOC LONG WHILE ARTILLERY FIRE HIT 5TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AT LAI KHE DURING THE WEEK.

5. COMMUNIST SUPPLY CONVOYS WERE DETECTED AND BOMBED TWICE THIS WEEK. A LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT SPOTTED A FOUR TRUCK CONVOY NEAR LAI KHE AND CALLED FIGHTER-BOMBERS, RESULTING IN THREE TRUCKS DESTROYED. A HELICOPTER IN PHUOC LONG OBSERVED SEVEN TRUCKS TRAVELLING NORTHWARD 30 KILOMETERS FROM DON LUAN -- VNAF AIRCRAFT CALLED ON THE SCENE DESTROYED TWO TRUCKS. NATIONAL POLICE LOGS AND 3RD AIR DIVISION BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS (BDA) REPORT THAT AIR STRIKES IN PHUOC LONG KILLED 28 TO 30 NVA/VC ON FEB. 20 DURING A CONTACT IN DUC PHONG DISTRICT.

6. ACTIVITY IN THE DAT DO AND LONG LE DISTRICTS OF PHUOC TUY CONTINUED THIS WEEK WITH GVN UNITS MAKING CONTACT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE ENEMY'S D445TH BATTALION WHICH WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE INFLICTED THE HEAVY LOSSES SUFFERED BY AN RF COMPANY AT HOI MY VILLAGE FEB. 15. THE UNIT, APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO ITS NORMAL AREA OF OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL PHUOC TUY, IS BEING PURSUED AND HARASSED BY A MOBILE TASK FORCE FROM THE 48TH REGIMENT, 18TH DIVISION WORKING CLOSELY WITH BLOCKING FORCES CONSISTING OF RF UNITS.

7. THE RASH OF WATER SAPPER INCIDENTS REPORTED LAST WEEK WAS NOT REPEATED DURING THE CURRENT PERIOD. IN ONE INCIDENT NEAR THE HAU NGHIA/BINH DUONG BORDER, RF TROOPS AMBUSHED A SAPPER UNIT, CAPTURED A NUMBER OF WEAPONS AND ACCOUNTED FOR 6 KIA. DOCUMENTS CAPTURED IDENTIFIED THE ENEMY UNIT AS A RECON ELEMENT OF THE 4TH NAVAL SAPPER BN. OF GIA DINH. TWENTY KILOGRAMS OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES WERE ALSO DISCOVERED AT NHA BE WHICH HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FOCUS OF RECENT SAPPER ACTIVITIES AGAINST FUEL AND AMMUNITION STORAGE AREAS.

8. ICCS: INDODEL REGION V CHIEF HAS INFORMED US THAT TWO IRANDEL OFFICERS WERE DEPLOYED TO AN LOC ON FEB. 21. THIS SUB-REGIONAL SITE HAS BEEN MANNED EXCLUSIVELY BY INDODEL UNTIL NOW. INDODEL

IS STILL BUCKING A COMMUNIST DESIRE TO PULL OUT TEAMS FROM CU
CHI AND LAM SON. IRANDEL AND INDODEL CARRIED OUT ONLY TWO JOINT
OBSERVATIONS DURING PAST MONTH.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03

L-02 OMB-01 AID-10 IO-03 DPW-01 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-01

/073 W

----- 052430

O R 271000Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2095

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CDR USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
USDEL JEC PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 6 SAIGON 02557

LIMDIS

PART VIII MR IV

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: TOTAL VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ROSE TO 539 (UP FROM 409 LAST WEEK), INCLUDING 76 GROUND ATTACKS (64), 342 ATTACKS BY FIRE (263), 98 HARASSMENTS (75) AND 14 TERRORIST ACTS (5). THERE WERE ALSO 8 REPORTED INSTANCES OF SABOTAGE. THE GVN LOST 221 KILLED (230 LAST WEEK), 880 WOUNDED (790) AND 95 MISSING (137). THE GVN LOST 5 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (13 LAST WEEK) AND 275 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (365). CORPS CLAIMS 766 VC/NVA KILLED (730 LAST WEEK), 33 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (15) AND 39 CREW-SERVED (43) AND 222 INDIVIDUAL (228) WEAPONS SEIZED. VC/NVA ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN KIEN GIANG. GVN ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED AROUND TRI PHAP IN THE DINH TUONG-KIEN PHONG-KIEN TUONG TRI-BORDER AREA.

(B) THE BATTLE FOR TRI PHAP: MAJOR CLASHES IN AND AROUND TRI PHAP VILLAGE IN THE DINH TUONG-KIEN PHONG-KIEN TUONG TRI-BORDER AREA CONTINUE, WITH HIGH VC/NVA CASUALTIES AND EXTENSIVE SEIZURES OF VC/NVA FACILITIES AND AMMUNITION. IN THE REGIONS AROUND TRI PHAP IN THE NORTHERN DELTA, MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT ROUGHLY THE SAME LEVEL PREVALENT IN RECENT WEEKS: DINH TUONG SECTOR REPORTS 116 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 14 GROUND ATTACKS AND 27 ATTACKS BY FIRE DURING THE WEEK. CORPS G-2 REPORTS VC MR2 HAS TRANSFORMED THE E-1 REGIMENT IN THE PROVINCE INTO A MOBILE UNIT FOR OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE VC MR2 AREA. THERE WERE TWO MINOR INCIDENTS ON ROUTE 4 AND A CHILD KILLED BY A SNIPER ON ROUTE 29 IN THE PROVINCE. A GRENADE IN THE TAN HIEP VILLAGE OFFICE IN CHAU THANH DISTRICT WOUNDED NINE CIVILIANS. IN KIEN PHONG, THE LEVEL OF INCIDENTS ROSE TO 72 (54 LAST WEEK), INCLUDING TWO GROUND ATTACKS AND 12 ATTACKS BY FIRE. CORPS G-2 REPORTS GVN FORCES HAVE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED INTERDICTION EFFORTS ALONG INFILTRATION ROUTE 1B, BUT LIGHTLY POPULATED KIEN TUONG PROVINCE REPORTED JUST 4 ATTACKS BY FIRE, NO GROUND ATTACKS, AND 14 INCIDENTS RESULTING FROM GVN OPERATIONS DURING THE WEEK. TO THE EAST, IN KIEN HOA, THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ROSE TO 96 FOR THE WEEK, BUT LARGELY RESULTING FROM GVN OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN GIONG TROM DISTRICT WHERE AN

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AGGRESSIVE DISTRICT CHIEF IS CONFRONTING THE D6 AND D7 VV BATTALIONS AND E-2 REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS WHICH HAVE MOVED TO THE AREA FROM MO CAY DISTRICT TO THE SOUTHWEST. ONE RF PATROL ENCOUNTERED APPROXIMATELY A VC COMPANY IN THE DISTRICT AND LOST 12 KILLED AND 7 WOUNDED. 12 ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR HIT BEN TRE CITY JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT, FEBRUARY 25, BUT CAUSED JUST MINOR DAMAGE AND WOUNDED 3.

(C) IN THE UPPER DELTA, CHAU DOC REPORTS A GROUND ATTACK AND 11 ATTACKS BY FIRE, BUT LIMITED GVN LOSSES IN MINOR SCATTERED ACTION. 15 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE FROM PHNUM DEN MOUNTAIN IN CAMBODIA AGAIN HIT TINH BIEN DISTRICT TOWN ON FEBRUARY 20 (SEE PREVIOUS SITREP), KILLING FOUR AND WOUNDING 14. 12 ROUNDS ALSO HIT A LOCATION IN WESTERN VINH GIA VILLAGE, NEAR THE BORDER, WOUNDING 9. 5 NVA RALLIERS FROM THE 195 TRANSPORTATION GROUP BASED NEARBY IN CAMBODIA REPORTED NVA PLANS TO ATTACK GVN OUTPOSTS IN THE CHAU DOC "PANHANDLE" AREA, INCREASE INFILTRATION ALONG ROUTE 1C, AND RE-INFILTRATE NUI GIAI. THE 195TH HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN REORGANIZED INTO A REAR SERVICE GROUP, WHICH CORPS G-2 INTERPRETS AS A DEFENSIVE REACTION TO BOTH KHMER COMMUNIST PRESSURE AND THE GVN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE. IN A SERIES OF MINOR CONTACTS SOUTHWEST OF NUI GIAI BETWEEN FEBRUARY 18 AND 22, 13 VC WERE KILLED, 5 WEAPONS CAPTURED. BOTH AN GIANG AND SA DEC WERE QUIET.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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L-02 OMB-01 AID-10 IO-03 DPW-01 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-01

/073 W

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O R 271000Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2096

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CDR USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
USDEL JEC PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 6 OF 6 SAIGON 02557

LIMDIS

(D) MODERATE ACTIVITY IN THE CENTRAL DELTA: VINH LONG REPORTS 5 GROUND ATTACKS AND 28 ATTACKS BY FIRE BUT ALSO NUMEROUS INCIDENTS RESULTING FROM GVN OPERATIONS. TWO OUTPOSTS IN TRA ON DISTRICT AND ONE IN TAM BINH DISTRICT WERE OVERRUN, WITH LOSSES UNCLEAR. THE 520, 468, AND 443 RF BATTALIONS IN TRA ON REPORT SCATTERED MINOR ACTIONS. FOUR SITES IN AND AROUND TICH THIEN VILLAGE IN THE DISTRICT WERE MORTARED ON FEBRUARY 20, BUT WITHOUT CAUSING GVN CASUALTIES. A VC FROGMAN IN TAM BINH WAS DETECTED ON FEBRUARY 21 ATTEMPTING TO PLANT 30 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES AT A PBR BASE. IN VINH BINH, THERE WERE 4 ATTACKS BY FIRE AND A MAJOR GROUND ATTACK ON FEBRUARY 20 BY ELEMENTS OF THE D-3 GEGIMENT - PROBABLY THE 306 BN JA AGAINST THE AN PHU TAN VILLAGE CENTER IN CAU KE DISTRICT, PROBABLY WITH INSIDE HELP. IT RESULTED IN 15 GVN KILLED - INCLUDING THE VILLAGE CHIEF AND HIS DEPUTY FOR SECURITY, 7 WOUNDED, 3 MISSING, THE LOSS OF 27 WEAPONS AND 3 RADIOS, AND DESTRUCTION OF MOST OF THE VILLAGE GOVERNMENTS BUILDINGS. A CLAYMORE MINE EXPLODED IN A COFFEE SHOP IN CAU NGANG DISTRICT ON FEBRUARY 24, KILLING 8 AND WOUNDING 57. CORPS G-2 REPORTS A RANKING PRISONER INDICATES THAT

THE 306 BN. HAS THE MISSION OF HOLDING POSITIONS IN THE VINH LONG-VINH BINH BORDER AREA TO DEVELOP THE COMMO-LIAISON ROUTE TO VC MR3.

(E) VC MR 3: VC MR3 ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON KIEN GIANG, WHERE THERE WERE 110 INCIDENTS REPORTED BY SECTOR (62 LAST WEEK), INCLUDING 9 GROUND ATTACKS AND 69 ATTACKS BY FIRE. VC/NVA ACTIVITY IS CONCENTRATED IN THREE AREAS:

1) IN SOUTHERN KIEN BINH DISTRICT, ELEMENTS OF THE 18B REGIMENT AND U MINH 10 BATTALION HAVE OCCUPIED 4 HAMLETS, FORCED THE GVN ABANDON 3 OUTPOSTS AND MORTARED THE DISTRICT TOWN AND 3 VILLAGE CENTERS. THEY CONTINUE TO BE OPPOSED - NOT VERY EFFECTIVELY - BY ELEMENTS OF THE 33RD REGIMENT OF THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION.

2) ALONG THE TREM TREM CANAL IN HIEU LE DISTRICT TO THE SOUTH NEAR THE U MINH FOREST, AT LEAST A BATTALION OF THE D-2 REGIMENT NORMALLY IN CHUONG THIEN IS OPERATING, OPPOSED BY A BATTALION OF THE ARVN 32ND REGIMENT. SOUTH OF THIS AREA UNITS
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OF THE 32ND REGIMENT IN THOI BINH DISTRICT OF AN XUYEN WERE AMBUSHED AND HAVE BEEN OUT OF CONTACT SINCE THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 25-26. SO FAR, APPARENTLY SOME 50 TROOPS ARE BELIEVED MISSING.

E) THE 101D REGIMENT OF THE NVA 1ST DIVISION CONTINUES TO OPERATE IN THE NORTH OF THE PROVINCE, IN THE HA TIEN-KIEN LUONG DISTRICT BORDER AREA. THE GVN HAS BEEN FORCED TO ABANDON TWO OUTPOSTS IN THE AREA AND TWO BRIDGES ON LTL 80 WERE DESTROYED ON FEBRUARY 23-24. A BATTALION OF THE ARVN 9TH DIVISION ENTERED HA TIEN ON FEBRUARY 22. INDICATIVE OF THE INCREASED LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IS THE FACT THAT ABOUT 4,000 REFUGEES HAVE BEEN GENERATED IN KIEN GIANG IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

(F) ELSEWHERE IN VC MR3, THE VC/NVA ATTEMPTED TO TAKE OVER XA PHIEN VILLAGE, KIEN THIEN DISTRICT, CHUONG THIEN, AN AREA GENERALLY HELD BY THE GVN. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION HAVE ENTERED THE AREA BUT HAVE ENCOUNTERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. KIEN THIEN DISTRICT TOWN WAS MORTARED 5 TIMES, LONG MY DISTRICT TOWN 6 TIMES, AND THE 31ST REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS ONCE DURING THE WEEK. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ONLY 5 GROUND ATTACKS, THE PROVINCE WAS SUBJECTED TO 67 ATTACKS BY FIRE. BA XUYEN REPORTS 5 GROUND ATTACKS AND 6 ATTACKS BY FIRE. THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN A HAMLET IN KE SAC DISTRICT ON FEBRUARY 28, WHEN SOME 30 VC INFILTRATED PHUN TUONG 2 HAMLET, AND ABDUCTED THE HANLET CHIEF AND 42 PSDF MEMBERS AND THEIR WEAPONS. BAC LIEU REPORTS 4 ATTACKS BY FIRE, ALL AGAINST ONE OUTPOST ON THE BA XUYEN BORDER, AMONG A TOTAL OF 25 INCIDENTS. A GROUP OF VC DRESSED IN GVN UNIFORMS ATTACKED LONG THANH VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS

FOUR KILOMETERS WEST OF BAC LIEU CITY ON ROUTE 4 ON FEBRUARY 23, CAUSING 8 CASUALTIES. BA XUYEN REPORTS JUST 2 GROUND ATTACKS

BUT 23 ATTACKS BY FIRE. IN ONE GROUND ATTACK AN OUTPOST IN DAM
DOI DISTRICT WAS OVERRUN AS ANOTHER VC GROUP LACED THE LOCAL
GVN HOWITZER FIRE SUPPORT BASE UNDER MORTAR ATTACK, BUT GVN LOSSES
WERE LIMITED. IN PHONG DINH, THE 411 AND 416 RF BATAIONS WERE
AMBUSHED ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 22 WHILE ATTEMPTING TO
RELIEVE A PREVIOUSLY OVERRUN OUTPOST SOUH OF PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT
TOWN. 26 RF WERE KILLED, INCLUDING 2 OFFICERS, 36 WOUNDED, AND
22 MISSING.

2. ICCS-JMC ACTIVITES: "PRG" AND GVN REPRESENTATIVES JOINTLY
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RECONNOITERED TWO PROPOSED SITES FOR PICKUP OF PRISONERS HELD
BY THE "PRG" IN AN XUYEN AND KIEN GIANG ON FEBRUARY 23. 9 AND
52 PRISONERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED RESPECTIVELY AT THE 2
SITES, BUT NO DATE(S) HAVE YET BEEN FIXED (CAN THO 0054).
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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION, INFILTRATION, COMMUNISTS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, TRUCE OBSERVERS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1974
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974025/aaaaaeun.tel
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005